

REMARKS

The following responds to the Examiner's Action of June 2, 2004. Applicant thanks the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claims 1 – 15.

The Examiner has found that claims 16 – 18 are anticipated by the Antrim 27 Designer's comments. Applicant has amended claim 16 to more clearly state the unique subject matter of his invention. The axis of rotation of the bowsprit in claim 16 as it shifts between its extended and retracted positions is now specified to be substantially horizontal. Original claim 16 did not specify that the bowsprit rotated about a horizontal axis.

Horizontal in this case of course refers to the general plane of the sailboat hull and deck when sitting at anchor. When the sailboat heels (rotates about its longitudinal axis), the horizontal axis as used in claim 16 is no longer horizontal with respect to the water surface, but has an angle with the water surface equal to the heeling angle.

This change to claim 16 now clearly distinguishes same from the Antrim reference. Claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 16 and are allowable because claim 16 is now presumed allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claim 19 (originally numbered incorrectly as claim 20) as obvious over Mitchell in view of Chapman. Applicant has renumbered original claim 20 as claim 19 and rewritten same to depend from claim 16. Claim 19 now adds to claim 16, the limitation of a sleeve through which the bowsprit slides. The "low friction tape" limitation has been removed from claim 19 and inserted into a new claim 21, so numbered to avoid confusion with the original, incorrectly numbered claim 20. Claim 21

depends from claim 19. Since both claims 19 and 21 depend from presumably allowable claim 16, these claims 19 and 21 should both be allowable because of this dependence.

In view of the forgoing, applicant believes this case is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the Examiner to so rule. Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment required because of these amendments to Deposit Account 14-0620.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his attorney,

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